

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 remain pending in the present application, claims 1-4 being independent.

In the Office Action dated October 20, 2004, the Examiner asserts that the present application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species:

Species 1, illustrated in Fig. 8;

Species 2, illustrated in Fig. 9;

Species 3, illustrated in Fig. 10;

Species 4, illustrated in Fig. 11;

Species 5, illustrated in Fig. 12;

Species 6, illustrated in Fig. 13; and

Species 7, illustrated in Fig. 14.

In reply to the Examiner's indication that Applicant must elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits, and without agreeing with the Examiner's characterization of the claimed subject matter, Applicant hereby elects Species 1, illustrated in Fig. 8. Claims 1-6 are readable on Species 1. Thus, dependent claims 7 and 8 are subject to possible rejoinder. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications for non-elected subject matter.

Application No.: 09/994,747

Docket No.: 0879-0364P

☐ Applicant(s) hereby respectfully petitions for 0 month(s) extension of time for the filing of the present paper in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.17. Attached hereto is the fee transmittal listing the required fees.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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DRA/jdm

Respectfully submitted,



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